Cleaning drive at railway stations

1435. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have conducted any study to know the impact of entrusting the job of cleaning railway stations to private hands;

(b) whether Railways propose to extend this 'clean' drive to other important stations in other parts of the country;

(c) whether everything is going according to the expectation of the Railways in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (e) Railways have launched multi-pronged action under 'Operation Cleanliness' to improve sanitation and cleanliness at Railway stations & in trains. A Task Force was formed which identified the problem areas and suggested various measures including undertaking specialised cleaning activities by involving private parties. Contracts for cleaning have been awarded to private parties at some Railway stations by the Zonal Railways based on the need at the particular location, feasibility, availability of service provider etc. The Zonal Railways have been empowered to undertake such activities at important stations within their jurisdiction. Evaluation of work is a continuous process and the project is still in the experimental stage.

Walkie-talkie sets to crew in trains

1436. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the satellite phones in all the Zones and Divisional Headquarters have been installed;

(b) the fate of the proposal of Railways for giving atleast five walkie-talkie sets to the crew of all trains;